Chris Kern

Dr. solomon/ Ken

CAT

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Reading Response 5

Although the photo was not taken on campus, it still successfully describes what my time

at UCSD has been like. I know for certainty that my time has not been one of oppression nor

have I ever witnessed a case of racial inequality among my peers. My friend group is one of many differences and many backgrounds but we stand together as a group of friends without race. Kong's writing was confusing to me because it describes such a different environment than that of the school I know and that of the environment that i grew up in. Perhaps it is because I am a white male who comes from a family that has been able to provide for me and I am simply privileged, that I cannot understand the hostile climate that some students who could be seen as different may be experiencing. Perhaps it is for those reasons that I have not been seeing discriminatory acts around campus. All I can say is that Kong's writing did not change my opinion of the beautiful and respected school I am attending. It did not remind me of the oppression I see when Kong spoke of how someone was spoken negatively of when they did well on a test and how they set the curve and then did not receive emotional support from the school. Kong's writing focused on how underrepresented a minority group was and how it needed to be changed and that may very well be a necessary change that I have not been witnessing. However, it appears that there were a few self absorbed, rude and racist students and professors who are the root of the problem not the system that is not showing support for students who are feeling oppressed. UCSD's campus is one of inclusion for all members of any group or affiliation not matter what you believe or look like. There has not been a time when one of my friends or I have come into a situation where our identity became a means of exclusion. My school gives every student every opportunity they could ask for to be equals with one another. The campus environment is anything but hostile towards any group of people and the idea that API people are expected to be the smartest has not been a theme that I have picked up around campus.